



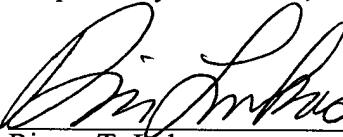
REMARKS

Prior to the examination on the merits, entry of the foregoing Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 2, 5, 17 and 23 have been amended. No new matter has been added by virtue of the amendments.

If it is determined that a telephone conversation will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number given below.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Rimas T. Lukas
Registration No. 46,451

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Lukas IP Group
P.O. Box 3295
Half Moon Bay, California 94019-3295
Telephone: (650) 560-0076
Facsimile: (650) 897-9944